A True Discourse of the late Battaile fought betweene our Englishmen, and the Prince of Parma, on Monday the 15. of November 1585. and of such Townes and Cities as are of late conquered and brought to the Queenes Maiesties subiection, by that valiant gentleman M. Norris.

LONDON
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1585.

To his very friend W. G. gentleman in London.

FOr asmuch as the nature of man is alwaies desirous of nouelties, and that diuers people are ginen to speake d uersly, some for fauour, and some for malice, making sundrye reportes of one matter either adding or diminishing, as best it fitteth their fancies, or according as they beare in affection. Therefore that my frendes in England may be fully certified of the truth of our lateſt affaires, I haue sent you here a certaine draught of our attemptes, since our ariuall into these partes of Flaunders: the truth whereof you neede not to doubt, for that my pen hath written nothing but what my owne eies haue beheelde and seene. Therfore as you esteeme of my deedes giue credit to my wordes, and as you haue tryed my truth, make accoumpt of my tydings, the contents whereof doth briefly follow.

Your assured friend W. M. seruitour vnder Corrouall Norris.

AFTER it had pleased the Quéenes most excellent Maiestie, with the consent of her graue and honorable counsails to send succour to the poore afflicted and distressed people of the lowe Countries, whereby they might be defended from the oppression and crueltie of their bloudie enimies, which hath so many yeares endured the miserie of deadly warres, and onely for their auncient libertie, and the cause of their consciences, which hath against right bene holden from them by the meanes of the King of Spaine: whereby the countrie hath bene consumed, the inhabitaunces spoyled, and all things brought almost into dessolution: in so much the poore people remained suckerlesse, till it pleased her gracious Maiestie to yælde them relefe. Since which time her Noble Armie haue not spent their time in vaine, but to the honour of their countrie, and the ioy of all her Maiesties faithfull subiectes, haue so valiantly behaued themselues, that by the helpe of the mosse mightie God (who hath wonderfully prospered their proceedings) they haue giuen their enimies the repulse from diuers places, and gained sundrie Townes and Cities vnto the Quéenes Maiesties vse. If then the magnanimitie of noble mindes may bee iudged by outward workes, and zealous hartes towardes God and Prince, may be measured and made apparant by manfull exploites and cruell conflictes tending to no lesse then the losse of liues, and confusion of common weales, what may wee saye of these late victorious conquestes, gained by Gods prouidence, and their aduentures. Who haue put themselues in the hazard of so many enimies-hands, whose insatiable panches haue bene glutted with the bloud of so many good and faithfull professours, whose bullets rebounding from the breasts of our valiant defenders, hath recoyled into their owne bosomes, as in Flaunders hath of late bene seene acchiued, by those worthy men the only instruments appointed by Gods grace and her Maiesties prouidence, to represse the tyrannie of those proude, insolent and presumptuous Spaniardes, whose force the most part of these people haue felt, to their great griefe, and our immortall glorie: by whose painefull prowesse, and dexteritie in marciall affaires, the frontiue

townes of Holland and Zealand be already given vp to her Maiesties vse and garrisons placed in them, namely in Bell, and in Flushing, besides some in Holland, and Burgamp ton, the very entries into Flaunders and Brabant: Also Lille, Liskinhooke, Williamstat, and the land of Tragon. All which be now vnder her Maiesties gouernment. Besides that valiant and hardie captaine M. Norris is now in Gulderland, where by fier and sworde he hath made such an vtter spoile, that many multitudes of Spaniardes can hardly repaire it againe, so many bulwarkes haue bee beaten downe: and so many mightie walles hath bee cast vnderfote. Also by force of Armes and the helpe of God he hath taken the Sconce of Arnam, which was enuyronned by a riuer side wherein M. Norris for the better facilitie in the enterprise, placed fiue ships, and two hoyes, which sped very ill for that they were on ground, and in the enimies reach, knowing no way to escape the imminent daunger: Which captaine Hunnings perceiuing, and seeking to escape the enimies handes, being already sore hurt, thought to leape out of a ship into a boate: but by reason of his Armour which he had on that time, he lighted short, and by that meanes was vnfortunately drowned. Notwithstanding M. Norris still continued his skirmish on land (in a sconce which he had butted against them) so manfully, that hauing sore discomfited them by meanes of his force and hote assaults: and the day drawing neere to an ende they rested.

On the morrow, M. Norris both in respect of his owne valour, and his countries credit, continued his determination, and purposed to bid them battle. But the enimie knowing their want of ability to withstand his force, and being without hope of helpe, voluntarily appealed to the law of Armes, that they might depart with bag and baggage: and surrendring the towne into his hands. M. Norris with no small credit to his countrie, and honor of his name, with humble and hartie thankes vnto God for his clemencie, with great glorie he entred the sconce of Arnam, and which he placed such a garrison as was conuenient for the keping thereof. Moreouer, this worthy and valiant minded man determining to leaue nothing vnattempted that might any way impaire the enimies arrogancy, and profit his prince and countrie, with a minde inconquerable marched toward the Citie of Num-

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gantly where hath vnmerciable fauor, and knightly chiualrie, hadde
ding another of the enimies seruices acclared the riuer Rhin from
their possessions, by which worthy immortall commenda-
tions he hath opened the passage from Cullin and all the highe
countries, which is a most profitable and readie helpe to the vni-
uersall English Campe. This done, secretly in one night by seri-
ous paines and industrie (as a wise and politique captaine, let-
ting slip no occasion that might be profitable for his purpose) hee
raised a mount before the Citie, and that of such a hight and
strength, that thereon he planted his ordinance, for that the situ-
ation of the Towne was such that otherwise he could haue done
it small hurt, but by meanes of this new raised mounte: on the
morrow he shot manfully into the market place, greatly terrify-
ing their enimies and inhabitance of the citie. The Prince of
Parma hearing what had happened, presently marched towarde
the succour of the Citie, purposing fully to haue driuen Sr. Nor-
ris the repulse, who for the better and more easie accomplishmēt
thereof, their pretense was to trauell secretly in the night, think-
king thereby to take the Englishmen vnprouided for their com-
ming, as indeede they had done, had not the commendable and di-
ligent care of our spies preuented that inconuenience, by fore-
warning the Campe of their comming, who at that instant were
not farre off: at length the enimies approching, hauing for their
guide and gouernor the Prince of Parma, (a man of great force
and dexteritie in feates of warres,) and maister Norreys man, of
no lesse courage then courtesie, with a moste cheerefull heart en-
couraged his men to the battaile bidden by the enemie, wherein
he him selfe for the incouragement of the rest to the worthie ex-
ample of all that followed gaue the fierste stroke in the face
of his foe, and that so terrible to the enemie, that turning their
backes they fled away as men amased, not beeing able to sustaine
the force of his handes which our Englishmen perceiuing moste
victoriously followed in pursute of their fainting foes, with such
fearnestnes of minde and courage, that with the dead blowes
they gaue the Spaniards were layd leuell with the ground: in
which conflict was slaine of the enemie, to the number of 2. thou-
sand, at what time there was taken from them in the fielde, 9.
Ensignes, which was no small griefe to the hartes of our ene-

mies whos greatly bewailed their vnfortunate successe. which was done with very small losse of our Englishmen, whose death was doubled with hundreds of ỳ foes: which battaile was fought on monday the 15. of Nouember, 1585. for which victorious cõquests, let all faithfull and true hearts (tendering the aduancement of Gods glorie, and the prosperous estate of our gratious soueraigne,) yelde hartie thankes vnto the Lorde of hostes: who is the onely giuer of victories, by whose grace and fauour, the enemies of his truth are troden vnder foote, which haue set themselues, and bent their force, against the true professors of his glorious name, but with the blast of his mouth they shall be ouerthrowen, and with his power consumed to nothing. But returning to our matter, After this M. Norris marched to the Towne, of Briell, of which towne he is made chiefe Generall vnder her Royal Maiestie, where he was honorably receiued by al ỳ states, Burgises, and Citizens, with great triumph, and in euery corner of the citie great bonfiers were made, all the Bells were rong, & many a peale of great ordinãce was shot of for ioy of his entrance into the Citie, and all the people with loud voyces, God saue good Queene Elizabeth, God saue the good Queene of England.

Thus haue you heard the true reporte of these last exploytes in Flaunders, which God increase for the glorie of his name, and prosper all their Counsailes, and affaires, in this their godly and rightfull cause to the comfort of the poore afflicted people of that troublesome countrey, and the honour of her royall Maiestie by whose mercifull and bountefull hand the oppressed are defended & relieued. For whose happie and continuall raigne all faithfull subiectes may hartely pray that many yeares she may raigne ouer vs.

Herefollowethe names of such Captaines as were hurt at the winning of Arnain sconce.

Captaine Bowrowes.
Captaine Wotton,
Captaine Knowles.
Captaine Blunt.
Captaine Vaurser.
Captaine. Wilson.

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